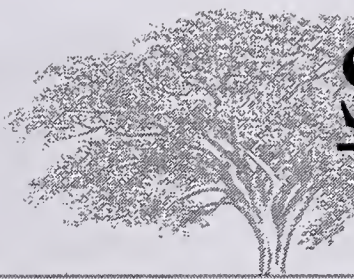


FREE



Sheffield TIMES

- Pictures from the Sheffield Fair, page 8
- Tips on getting ready for winter, page 6

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. XI, Issue II **November/December 2011**

SHEFFIELD BUSINESS ASSOC. ACTIVE AGAIN

The Sheffield Business Association, originally founded in 1967 by Santi Gulotta and Joe Cowen and disbanded in 1986, has risen from the ashes with a new generation, mission, energy and focus.

In the summer of 2010, a small group of Sheffield's business owners informally met with State Representative "Smitty" Pignatelli to talk about issues of concern to them, particularly the rising cost of health insurance for employees. Subsequent meetings outlined an association that would be a place for collegial information sharing and a way to create business-to-business opportunities in town.

According to town records, there are more than 200 businesses in Sheffield and Ashley Falls. Some are large, engaged in plastics manufacturing and banking. Medium-sized companies include utility providers and landscape and construction firms. And there are many small companies—owner-proprietor services and consulting businesses, some just starting out and operating from the kitchen table. But there are issues common to all: signage, zoning, maintaining property, obtaining funding, growing the business, creating jobs, purchasing health insurance, savings and

retirement plans—the list goes on and on.

So far, there are some 20 companies in the association. After much discussion, the mission of the revived group has been crystallized in six goals:

- Encourage proper maintenance of a business, its building and its grounds;
- Provide unmet community services;
- Support beautification projects;
- Promote the free enterprise system to the youth of our community;
- Create job opportunities within our community; and
- Maintain high business standards.

And a motto also emerged: "The Sheffield Business Association—Sharing a Common Interest in Promoting Small Business."

Collaboration with the schools

To support the youth of our community, the association has begun a collaboration between the schools and local businesses. With the support of Glenn DeVoti, principal of Mt. Everett Regional High School, and Andrew Rapport, life-skills teacher at Mt. Everett, a program has developed where special needs students have "shadowed" many Sheffield business owners in their daily work.

Over the past year, such students have toured Sheffield Pottery, Salisbury Bank, BowMeow Regency, Wheeler & Taylor and Gulotta Brothers Mobil to see how the business works, including discussion of the business models and some hands-on work. The program will continue in the spring

Continued on page 4



HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTINGS IN TOWN

Sheffield has two tree lightings every year, one in Ashley Falls and one on the Town Green, near Old Parish Church. All are welcome to join in the merriment.

Ashley Falls will once again herald the season at its annual tree lighting Sat., Nov. 26, right after Thanksgiving. Come participate in this great community event! Hay wagon rides begin at 4pm in front of the Ashley Falls Post Office. The illumination of the 90-foot Norway spruce is at 5pm. All kids are invited to put their names in a hat, and the winner gets to be this year's lighter. There will be hot cocoa and cider and cookies by the bonfire.

The Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society seeks helpers—and financial support—for this and other events we sponsor, as we enter our 98th year of advocacy and community involvement. Send contributions to AFVIS, PO Box 6, Ashley Falls, MA 01222, or call Richard Cherneff at 229-5958 for more information.

Sheffield's tree lighting will be Sun., Dec. 4, at 6:30pm on the Town Green in the center of Sheffield. It will be followed by carol singing and an ecumenical service in Old Parish Church.

The service will be led by area clergy and representatives of individual churches, an ecumenical choir will sing, and the Mt. Everett High School Band will play. There will be refreshments following the service in the Old Parish social room. Donations of cookies, brownies and other sweets welcome and appreciated!

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Sheffield TIMES

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Editors: Kathy Orlando & Andrea Scott

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Distribution: Trudy Weaver Miller
Staff: Sandy & Dale Alden, Rae Eastman,
Gillian Hettinger, Ellen Rowntree, Peter
Rowntree, Judy Schumer, Ellen Weiss,
Barbara West, John Wightman

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Working since 2001 to foster communication
among the people, businesses and organizations
of Sheffield and Ashley Falls

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liams, 21. Dick Goodwin, 22, 23. Historical Society, 24, 25.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE SCHOOL

To be there or not to be there. This year Mt. Everett High School performs "Hamlet" for Shakespeare & Company's 23rd Fall Festival of Shakespeare. For some participants, it will be their sixth and last year. For the seventh and eighth graders, this is just the beginning.

The shows feature three Hamlets, swordplay, woe and deceit. It's one production you won't want to miss.

Performances will take place at Mt. Everett on Fri., Nov. 11 at 7:30pm and Sat., Nov. 12 at 2 and 7:30pm. Mt. Everett opens the Festival weekend, often compared to a rock concert, at Founders Theatre in Lenox on Thurs., Nov. 17, at 6:30pm. The program involves more than 500 students from 10 schools in the region.

For information and tickets, call the Box Office at (413) 637-3353 or visit the website at www.shakespeare.org.

LIME KILN SANCTUARY

Mass Audubon will lead a tour of its Lime Kiln Farm Sanctuary on Silver St. on Sat., Nov 12, 10am to noon. \$6 for member or Sheffield resident; \$8 non-members.

Lime Kiln Farm is a bucolic 250-acre property that lies within the Schenob Brook Area of Critical Environmental Concern and hosts a wide variety of animal and plant life. Hillside hayfields offer magnificent views of the Taconic Range, and a 100-year old lime kiln adds historical interest to our walk. Walk the sanctuary's trails through meadow and forest searching for fascinating life forms of all kinds, as well as geologic and historic landmarks. Bring binoculars, water and a snack. For more information, call 413-637-0320.

THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

Help us keep Sheffield informed!

Each year the Sheffield Association must raise \$20,000 to keep our community newsletter going, to pay for printing, postage, insurance and the like.

Here's what a recent contributor says: "Sheffield is very fortunate to have a vehicle such as the Times."

Grace Arzt
Irmgard Bartzsch
Martin Brunnschweiler
Anthony and Marjorie Consolini
Virginia Flynn and Joe Crow

Claudia Martin
Gail and Walter Orenstein
Dan & Andrea Patel
Phyllis Samuels
Edith and Loet Velmans

If we missed thanking you here, we'll catch you in the next issue.

If you haven't sent in your contribution, do it now! See page 27.

THREE MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The *Sheffield Times* is provided free at distribution sites throughout Sheffield. It's only partly supported by advertising. When you make a donation, you help make future issues possible and you get the *Sheffield Times* in the mail. See the coupon on page 27.

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**January/February
issue deadline:**

December 15

UKULELE CO. OFFICIALLY OPENS

The Magic Fluke Co. held an open house for the community on Oct. 15 to mark the official opening of its headquarters on Rt. 7 in Sheffield. Dozens attended the occasion, which was of course celebrated with ukulele music.

The Magic Fluke Co. makes the Fluke, Flea and FireFly ukuleles here in Sheffield, in the "tropical" state of Massachusetts. In the post-and-beam building that formerly housed Michael Shiels' construction company, the company welcomes people Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm, for a tour or a strum in the retail shop. Or sign up for lessons with local musical favorite Rob Sanzone.



Greg Hawkes, keyboard player for *The Cars*, was given a Magic Fluke ukulele 10 years ago and fell in love. He has since recorded an album of ukulele versions of Beatles tunes. Greg (center) and his trio—Greg Allison (left) and Tim Mann—performed at the Magic Fluke Co.'s open house.



Planting: Tom Ingersoll, president of the Sheffield Tree Project (right), is joined by Sari Hoy, Bill Connell, Kerry Douglas of the Sheffield Land Trust, Joan Sussman and Will Conklin.

NEW TREE AT COVERED BRIDGE

September's storms and flooding took down the old willow tree at Covered Bridge Park. The bridge itself, the new boat launch and the Housatonic River Summer 2004 commemorative "sitting stone" came through unscathed, as did the young sycamore tree planted at the site a year ago.

The Town crew did an excellent job of clearing debris from the fallen willow and filling the root hole. They planted grass and reset the split-rail fence.

On Oct. 15, the Sheffield Tree Project, led by Tom Ingersoll, donated and planted a young red maple "Red Sunset" to replace the fallen willow. Tom reported this type of maple, native to lowland areas, will tolerate wet feet, which will undoubtedly be the case at the riverside park.

Come to the park. Launch your canoe or kayak. Walk your dog. Sit on the sitting stone and contemplate the beauty and serenity of the river and the covered bridge. —Bill Connell

DEWEY HALL FOLK MUSIC SERIES

Dewey Hall's monthly folk music series presents local, regional and national musicians on the first Saturday of the month. It's a rare opportunity to hear musicians in an intimate, family-friendly, coffeehouse setting with superb acoustics.

On Nov. 5, Marilyn Miller from Hudson, NY, performs music from ballads to blues, down home country to punk-rock. Her most recent album, "Nighthawk," was produced in Sheffield at Todd Mack's Off the Beat 'N' Track Studio. www.marilynmillermusic.com

On Dec. 3, Kip Beacco and his band The Lucky Five, will perform "heavy-duty, old-school, hard-swingin' jazz." The band's members are from the Berkshires to New York City and bring verve, high energy, and an unpredictable impulse to the tradition of jazz from the 20s, 30s and 40s. Bring your dancing shoes. You can see a video of them performing "Sweet Georgia Brown" at YouTube by searching for "Lucky Five Georgia Brown."

Historic Dewey Hall is the stone building next to the Post Office in Sheffield. Light refreshments are available. Suggested donation at the door is \$15. www.DeweyHall.com.



Kip Beacco and his band The Lucky Five

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, from page 1

with Tomich Landscape Design & Construction and others.

In the future, the association hopes to reach out to business administration students and to establish scholarships for both vocational and college-bound students.

An exciting collaboration that is taking place right now will soon be evident to all who frequent the Sheffield Town Green. At long last, Sheffield will have a

constructing an information kiosk to go on the small piece of land next to the Village on the Green Restaurant, a plot donated by Beth Bartholomew. The building, being constructed at the school, will have a small footprint, 7 x 12 feet, with an overhanging roof to protect visitors from inclement weather.

The kiosk will be used by Business Assoc. members to display brochures, business information, business cards and other notices inside the building. On the outside will be mounted two Community Bulletin Boards, open to all public notices. Anyone who has ever been responsible for advertising anything in town will be thrilled—and those who want to know what's going on in town can find out all in one place.

The design has been a collaboration between Bill De Vries of De Vries Building Supply and Chris Tomich of Tomich Landscape Design & Construction and aims to fit in with the New England style of other buildings on the Green. The kiosk will have solar collector panels on the south-facing roof to power discreet lighting at night.

The building has been paid for by a consortium of local businesses. Major "angels" have been De Vries Building Supply, Salisbury Bank, Gulotta Brothers Mobil, Sheffield Pottery and Tomich Landscape Design & Construction, with additional funding from Steven Seward &

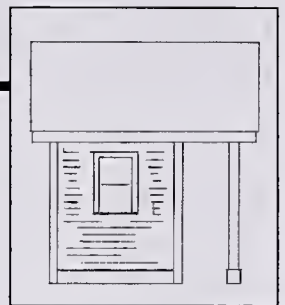
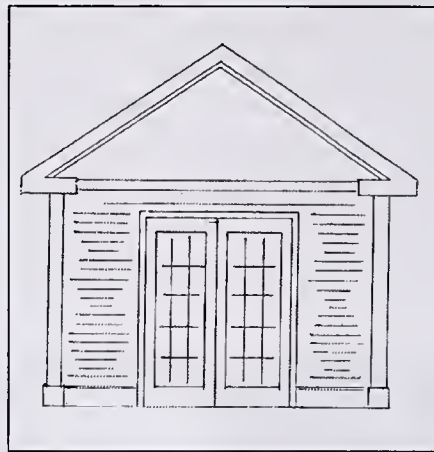
Sons Lawn Care, SingersBabel and others. **Businesses encouraged to join**

The Sheffield Business Assoc. is a way for businesses of all sizes—even one-person enterprises—to have a presence in our community and to make a difference. The group welcomes new members. The annual membership is only \$50. Non-profit organizations are also invited to join. Associate memberships are available for businesses located outside of Sheffield with customers and clients in town.

Meetings take place every third Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the back room of The Bridge Restaurant. Each meeting features a speaker from the larger business community. Recent speakers have included Colin Smith, C.P.A., of Smith, Watson & Co., who spoke about options for retirement plans and Smitty Pignatelli, who spoke about access to group insurance options.

For information about joining, call Chris Tomich, the group's chair, at 229-2934 and specify "Sheffield Business Association" in your message.

—Trudy Weaver Miller



The new information kiosk that's being built: east elevation facing the Green, left, and south elevation, above.

Sheffield Business Association members so far:

AccessMyBiz (Maggie Martin)
Barrett Tree Service (Winthrop Barrett)
Doug Blume Electric
Bow Meow Regency (Honor Blume)
DeVries Building Supply (Bill & Joan DeVries)
Gulotta Brothers Mobil (Tony & Ed Gulotta)
JTC & Sons (James & Theresa Collingwood)
The Magic Fluke Co. (Dale & Phyllis Webb)
Ted Pitman
Sandra Preston Real Estate
Sachs & Reisman Jewelry Designers
Salisbury Bank & Trust
Steven Seward & Sons Lawn Care
Shear Image
Sheffield Pottery (John & Diane Cowen)
SingersBabel (Trudy Miller)
Tomich Landscape Design & Construction (Chris & Mark Tomich)
Carl VanDeusen Electric
Wheeler & Taylor

welcoming information space for visitors and residents alike.

The Sheffield Business Assoc. and the Building Structures Program students at Mount Everett, overseen by Vocational Tech teacher Curtis Von Ruden, are



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BEFORE THE SNOWS BLOW...

When you're checking out the new information kiosk, take a look at the local businesses available to help with your leaky plumbing, snow-plowing, tree work, electrical work, carpentry, landscape and so forth. The article on page 6 has more on getting your house and property ready for winter.

BEARS AND EAGLES JOIN FORCES

Berkshire School and Mt. Everett Regional High School may not play each other in sports. But for 75 minutes every Thursday afternoon, students from both schools team up for an activity far more important: serving as role models for elementary school children.

Kids4Kids, in which students in grades 10 through 12 mentor kids in grades 2 through 6, is now in its ninth year and attracting record numbers. Despite its whimsical name, the program is serious stuff: All children involved have to sign contracts, the older kids promising to serve as positive role models and the younger ones vowing to behave and listen to the teenagers supervising them.

Club advisor Susan Happ, school adjustment counselor in the elementary schools in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, says that this fall, a total of 39 kids from Mt. Everett and Berkshire are tutoring, playing games and just plain having fun with 39 kids from Undermountain Elementary.

"The program is a bridge between Berkshire School and Mt. Everett," says Happ, a Sheffield resident and mother of two. "It gives older kids the experience of community service, while the most important thing for the younger kids is relationship building."

Happ, who has been supervising the program since its inception in 2003, says that she has been happy to give her Thursday afternoons to the cause. "I like to help children feel good about themselves."

Her counterpart at Berkshire is Myra Riiska, the school's director of research and gifts administration.

"The kids show up every week and take the responsibility very seriously," says Riiska, who buses 15 Berkshire kids to and from Mt. Everett. "They realize that they can have an impact on somebody else's life."

Riiska and her husband, Ashley Falls native Todd Riiska, have two children. Daughter Mindy, a senior at Mt. Everett this year, has been in Kids4Kids since her sophomore year, while son Shane, a freshman at Mt. Everett, was in the program when he was a sixth-grader at Undermountain Elementary.

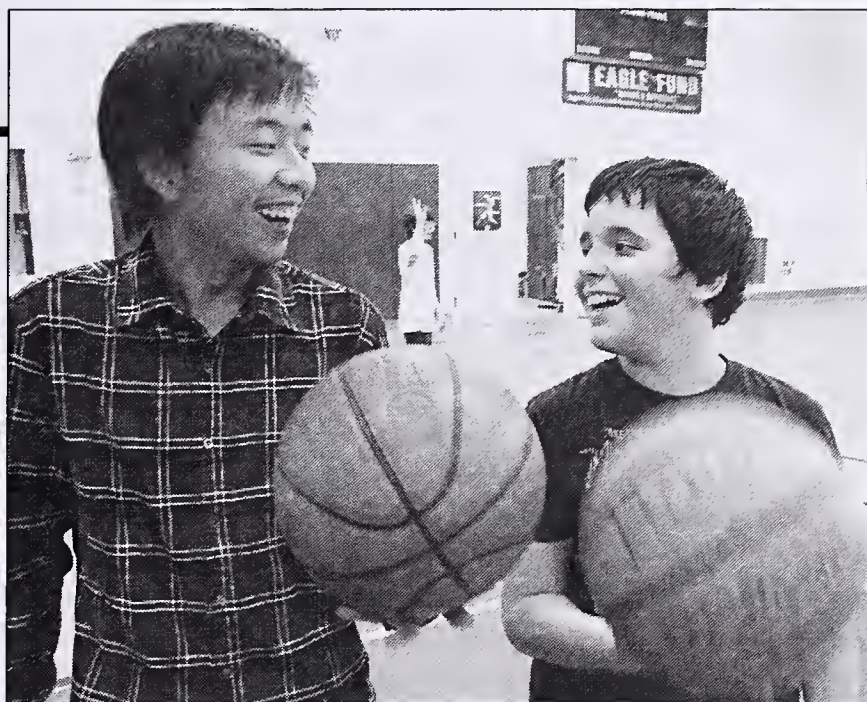
Happ says kids are encouraged to find who they want to pair up with rather than have adults make the match.

"Sometimes they have the same first name, sometimes after the ice-breaker activities they find something in common, sometimes they are just drawn to the other person. With very few exceptions, it usually works out and they remain together the whole year."

"It's a lot of fun," says fifth-grader Sara Davis of Sheffield. "We get to meet new people, have snacks and get help with our homework."

Olly Liu, a Berkshire sophomore from Shanghai, China, acts as a big brother to sixth-grader Nathan Monteleone of Sheffield. "The program helps me learn how to make friends with younger kids, rather than kids my own age," he says. "You have to take care of them instead of just playing with them."

Kids4Kids was the brainchild of Isabelle Berner, a 2004



Berkshire School sophomore Olly Liu with the Undermountain Elementary student he mentors, sixth-grader Nathan Monteleone of Sheffield.

Berkshire graduate who went on to Harvard University.

"I didn't anticipate this when I started the program, but I quickly realized that the mentors were getting as much out of the program as the mentees," she recalls. "My own mentee had no self-esteem. It was incredibly rewarding to draw her out a little more each week and to build a relationship with her. I went to see her act in the school play two years later. She was beaming, proud and confident, and so was I."

—James Harris

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A QUICK GUIDE TO GETTING READY FOR WINTER

In this "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness," it's hard to believe that the golden days of Fall will ever end. I admit when it comes to the ant and the grasshopper fable—the ant worked hard to prepare for the winter and the grasshopper spent the warm months singing—I'm on the side of the grasshopper.

But for those of us who remember the grim grip of winter in the Berkshires last year, it's none too soon to start battening down the hatches and preparing for the inevitable change of the seasons. This is particularly true if you're a second homeowner who may not be here when disaster strikes.

Here are some steps you can take:

Outside the house

- ✱ Don't forget to turn off water to outside faucets and let faucets drip dry before freezing temperatures hit. Disconnect hoses and bring them inside.

- ✱ Clean out your gutters—clogging leaves prevent melting snow from flowing, which can cause ice dams and leaks. Look for gaps in the gutter where water can drip through, freeze and cause icy patches. It's also not a bad idea to have a roof rake to relieve the roof of heavy snows.

- ✱ Mow lawns well into the fall and rake up and bag

clippings to prevent roots being smothered over the winter. Protect perennials with mulch; some may need covering with burlap or canvas. If you have overhanging branches near a power line, check with the power company; it will trim trees back to prevent branches falling on lines in an ice storm.

- ✱ Make sure your shovels are ready to go, and if you have one, your snow blower is tuned up. Get lawnmowers ready for winter storage by running them down or draining the fuel out.

- ✱ If you have potholes or cracks in your driveway or sidewalks, repair them; the thawing and refreezing of snow can make them even larger.

- ✱ Caulk any drafty spaces around the home, including the areas around windows.

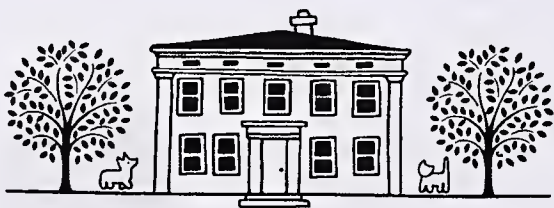
- ✱ Bring in potted plants and clean and store garden equipment.

- ✱ Buy bags of ice melt and sand.

Inside the house

- ✱ The Energy Department website, www.Energysavers.gov, provides useful tips, including advice on insulation. Consider an energy audit—many utility companies offer these.

- ✱ Be sure your attic is sufficiently insulated. In an older



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NEW HISTORY OF EGREMONT AREA

Gary Leveille, local author and historian, has published a new history of our region, *Eye of Shawenon: A Berkshire History of Prospect Lake, North Egremont and the Green River Valley*. It's a collection of historical sketches about the fascinating subjects he has discovered such as the puzzling land acquisitions from Mohican Native Americans known as Spoor's Grant and the Shawenon Purchase and the march by Colonel Knox with his artillery train in 1776 that changed the course of U.S. history. The title refers to a Mohican name for Prospect Lake. With hundreds of vintage photos, maps and illustrations. \$27.50.

home, that can be the most cost-efficient way to cut heating costs. Weather-strip and insulate your attic hatch or door. Cover and seal holes in the attic that lead down into the house.

- * Put an insulation jacket on your water heater.
- * Remove window air conditioners or seal around them.
- * Pull down/put up storm windows. Caulk inside windows and use insulated curtains. Clear plastic window-insulation kits cover the whole window and seal out any drafts.
- * Use decorative "draft snakes" along the bottom of exterior doors.
- * Install foam gaskets behind outlets and switch plates.
- * Weather-strip doors and windows. Check the weather-stripping around your entry door. If you can see a sliver of daylight, you need new weather-stripping.
- * Have chimneys checked. Creosote, a residue from wood, builds up over time and is combustible. Close the fireplace damper when fireplace is not in use to minimize heat loss.
- * Make sure the chimney is capped to keep birds and rodents out. Store firewood away from the house as mice like to make a home in it.
- * Mice—while we're on the subject, realize how much those furry little critters are longing to take up residence in your house, in your dresser drawers and walls. There are multiple ways to deal with them. You could try the following humane site: www.grandmashomeremedies.com/home-remedies-for-getting-rid-of-mice. There are also humane traps which lure mice into a trap and keep them alive to be released into the wild—but this only works if you're around to empty out the traps. You can also try electronic mice repellents and (not for the squeamish), regular traps and poison. If all else fails, get a cat.
- * Have your furnace cleaned and serviced early to make sure it's in good working order. If you have oil heat, make sure the tank is full. Replace all filters, which will help with efficiency.
- * Install programmable thermostats.
- * Make sure all heating vents are open, clean and unblocked

by furniture. Use plastic covers to direct heat into rooms.

* To prevent freezing pipes, especially if you're a second home-owner, locate the water main so it can be shut off when you're not using the house. Protect all exposed pipes with extra insulation.

* Prepare an emergency kit with candles and portable radio; buy a battery backup to protect your computer.

* Improve the basement or cellar space by preventing the intrusion of cold air. Seal the rim joist area that rests on top of the foundation wall. Spray foam does a good job here, but two-inch thick rigid foam insulation can also be used and then sealed with the spray foam. Consider insulating basement walls to further reduce heat loss.

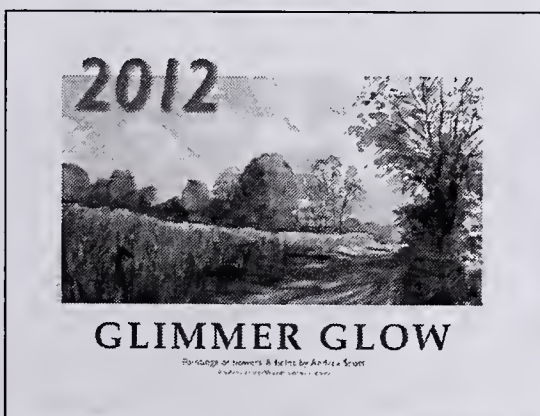
* Check smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and replace batteries as needed. Consider replacing light bulbs. New lighting standards take effect in 2012, and money-saving options such as energy-saving incandescent, compact florescent lighting and LED light bulbs are available today. For high-quality products with the greatest energy savings, choose bulbs that have earned the marked Energy Star.

* While many winterizing projects can be done by the homeowner, checking the heating system, cleaning out chimneys and gutters, exterminating pests and other tasks may require the services of professionals. For service people you can rely on, there's nothing better than hiring local. Many Sheffield service owners belong to the recently revived Sheffield Business Association, a kind of local Angie's List. See the list of members on page 4.

Lastly, in these balmy days of Indian summer, go out and plant armloads of bulbs, especially daffodils, which the deer don't like. After all, "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

—Gillian Hettinger

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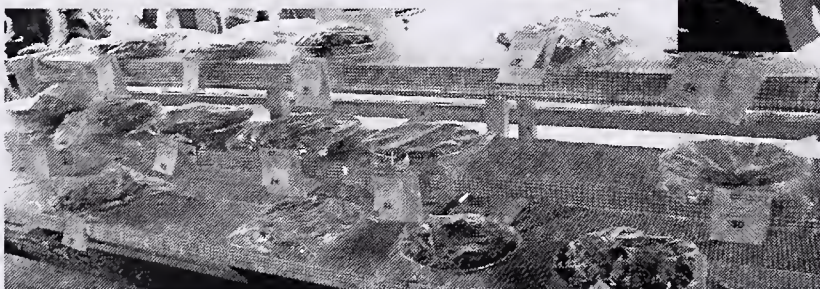
Sheffield in Celebration

LOOKING BACK AT THE SHEFFIELD FAIR

Despite flooding from Hurricanes Irene and Lee that left some roads closed, hundreds of people attended the 11th annual Sheffield Fair on Sept. 10 at the Town Park. After the Fair, many folks adjourned to the Kiwanis Steak Roast at the Fire House, followed by a Joint Chiefs concert at Dewey Hall. The Sheffield Association, publisher of the *Sheffield Times* and sponsor/founder of Sheffield in Celebration, the festive "umbrella" encompassing these events, would like to thank everyone who made the event a tremendous success. Here are some highlights.



Hope Aragi and Campbell Ingersoll at the Fair.



Pies. Prizes were awarded in three categories; junior, adult and senior, and there were judges for each. Above left, one group of judges tastes the pies, many of which are laid out at left. Above, the winners of the junior division show off their ribbons.

Animals. The flooding cut down on the showmanship and fitting entrants, since many farmers had to deal with emergencies. Below, Thomas Williams and Kristen Wolfe showing poultry. At right, Ricky McLaughlin and Nick LeGeyt show visitors two of their cattle.

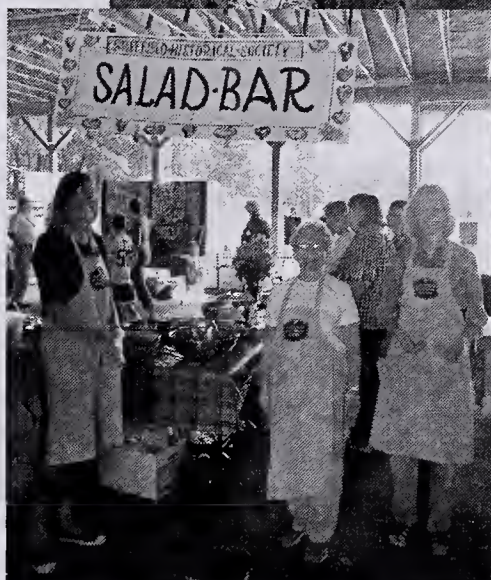




Family fun. Kids participated, kids were entertained, and the activity tent with facepainting was very popular. The Cub Scouts were on hand to sell popcorn, a fundraiser for the troop, top. Jimmy Larkin loads kids onto the hay ride, above.



Booths. Diane Cowen and Chris Tomich, above, at the Sheffield Business Assoc. table. Julie Hannum, Rhonda LaBombard and Dave Smith, Jr., at the Town's table, below. The Historical Society's salad bar was a big hit, left.



THANK YOU!

To everyone who helped make Sheffield in Celebration possible—donors, vendors and volunteers!

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Busy Farmers 4-H	Sheffield American Legion
Campo de' Fiori	Post 340
Candeas Wooden Stakes	Sheffield Association
Carlson Propane	Sheffield Board of Selectmen
Christ Church Episcopal	Sheffield Boy Scouts
Collingwood Transportation	Sheffield Business Assoc.
Harry Conklin	Sheffield Council on Aging & Senior Center
Will Conklin & Greenagers	Sheffield Cultural Council
Joanne Conti	Sheffield Fire Dept.
Barb Davidson	Sheffield Food Pantry
Barbara Delmolino	Sheffield Historical Society
Bart & Janet Elsbach	Sheffield Volunteer Hose Co #1
Jean Emberlin	Sheffield Kiwanis
John Graney Metal Design	Sheffield Land Trust
Hartcorn	Sheffield Police Dept.
Hearts of Our Father	Sheffield Tree Project
Gail Heath	Sheffield Water Company
Bill Hogelin	Sheffield Whinnies 4-H
Tom Ingersoll	Dave Smith, Sr.
Maggi Kern Crafts	Dave Smith, Jr.
Martha & Bob Kilmer	The Solar Store
King Arthur Flour	Stor-it-All
KS Bookkeeping	Thomas & Kathleen Tetro
Kwik Print	Trailblazers 4-H
Jimmy Larkin & Larkin Farm	The Trustees of Reservations
Susan LeGeyt, Tobey Hill Farm & the LeGeyt Family	Cassie Uricchio
Brian & Lois Levinsohn	Don Ward
Jana Lias	Ward's Nursery & Garden Center
Lipskis	Jackie Weaver
Mahaiwe Tents	Webster-Ingersoll
Catherine Miller	Joe Wilkinson & Sons Excavating
Trudy Miller	Dale Webb & Magic Fluke
Moose Mountain Maples	Bonnie & Stephen Zubernick
Melissa & Peter Martin	
Jim McGarry	
Mt. Everett High School FFA	
Old Parish Church & Quilters	

...and everyone who attended!



Maple Shade Farm and the view across some of its fields from Rebellion Road.

LAND TRUSTS HELPS FAMILY PROTECT MAPLE SHADE FARM

The Sheffield and Egremont Land Trusts and other partners have helped the Delmolino family protect Maple Shade Farm, 97 acres of scenic, historic prime farmland and wildlife habitat in Sheffield. The farm, along the Sheffield-Egremont Rd., Lime Kiln Rd. and Rebellion Rd., is the centerpiece of a larger conservation effort, the "Sheffield-Egremont Corridor," a relatively intact rural landscape that stretches from west of Route 41 east almost to Route 7.

The family worked with the land trusts as well as the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to secure the protection. The Open Space Institute and Pew Charitable Trusts provided key grants.

The Delmolinos have owned Maple Shade Farm since the 1920s, but the land has been farmed since the 1700s -- in addi-

tion to charcoal-making and quarrying in the area. The fields are currently leased to the Larkin Farm to grow corn and hay for their nearby dairy operation and to two other farms for pasture land.

With no powerlines or poles to remind a viewer of the 21st century, the farm's breathtaking view of fields, forest and the Taconic Range has long been a favorite of drivers, bikers, walkers, painters and photographers. Hubbard Brook winds through part of the farm, an important wetlands habitat. The farm is adjacent to the Appalachian Trail and down the road from the Shays Rebellion Monument.

The Sheffield Land Trust started discussing conservation with the Delmolino family over a decade ago. Completion was delayed due to health issues and deaths in the family, and then a very complex and entangled property title.

The farm is being conserved mainly through the State's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. Maple Shade Farm is the fifteenth Sheffield farm the Land Trust has helped protect through the program. APRs offer a non-development alternative by paying owners the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their land in exchange for a permanent deed restriction. The family continues to own the farm and can pass it down to future generations or sell it to another farmer.

The APR program requires a "local contribution," and over the past 20 years, the Sheffield Land Trust has raised more than \$3 million to leverage more than \$12 million in State money for the benefit of Sheffield farms. As it often does, the Sheffield Land Trust has facilitated State action and smoothed the way for the Delmolino family by "pre-acquiring" the APR for Maple Shade Farm. A neighboring property, the 130-acre Quarry Hill Farm on Sheffield-Egremont Rd., was similarly protected in 2009.

Maple Shade Farm anchors Phase II of this landscape-level conservation project, whose formal title is the "Sheffield-Egremont Agricultural, Ecological and Scenic Corridor" in northwestern Sheffield and southeastern Egremont. For this phase of the project, the Sheffield and Egremont Land Trusts have had to raise \$2 million. They are within \$150,000 of that goal.

"The response from the Sheffield and Egremont communities has been tremendous," said Susan Rothschild, president of the Sheffield Land Trust. "We encourage everyone to help us finish up this part of a very important conservation effort."

Contributions can be sent to either organization. For more information, see www.sheffland.org or www.egremontlandtrust.org.

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WOODS TEA COMPANY BENEFIT

Once again, the Woods Tea Company will appear in concert to raise funds for Sheffield's Good Samaritan Fund. The fund, handled by Sheffield's churches, helps families pay utility bills, medicine and fuel.

The concert will be on Sun., Nov. 27, at 2pm at Old Parish Church. The band—Howard Wooden, Patti Casey and Tom MacKenzie—performs bluegrass, Celtic tunes, sea chanties, and folk songs using instruments from banjos and bodhrans to guitars and hammered dulcimers.

The show is great family entertainment for the Thanksgiving weekend. There is no admission fee; instead, a freewill offering will be collected.

McKenzie, the group's ukulele player, is working with Phyllis and Dale Webb, owners of the Magic Fluke Co., the largest domestic manufacturer of ukuleles, now located in Sheffield, to bring something special to the concert.

The Good Samaritan Fund was set up to provide emergency assistance to local families. Aid is in the form of payment for a specific bill or grocery or gas cards. —Pauline W. Schumann



Woods Tea

BANK GIVES TO FOOD PROGRAM

Sheffield's Food Assistance Program was one of five area food pantries to benefit from Salisbury Bank customers' generosity. The other programs are in Lakeville and Canaan, CT, and Millerton and Dover Plains, NY.

The bank's "Give Initiative" raised \$3,725 altogether. If a bank customer signed up for paperless e-statements, the Bank made a \$5 contribution to a local food pantry. Some 745 customers made the switch.

"We were very gratified by the support our customers gave to the program," says Salisbury Bank President and CEO Rick Cantele. "We thank them, and the food programs thank them. The help couldn't have come at a better time." [One of Sheffield's 4-H groups is also collecting food for the Sheffield Food Program; see page 21.]

THANKSGIVING PIE SALE

Save yourself some work this Thanksgiving! The First Congregational Church of South Egremont is holding a Thanksgiving Pie Sale. The church will be selling apple and pumpkin pies.

To order, call 528-2368. The last day to order is Nov. 19. Pies must be picked up on Wed., Nov. 23, between 11am and 2pm.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist), 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. Sunday: 9am Service.

EGREMONT

First Congregational Church of South Egremont, 34 Main St. 528-2209; parsonage 644-6419; pastor's cell (413) 883-1116. Sunday Worship: 10am. Rev. Peter Henderson.

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services not held every week. Schedules are updated on answering machine

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Associate Rabbi Ari Rosenberg

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Old Parish (United Church of Christ), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship. Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic), Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. Bruce Teague

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational), 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, www.sheffieldchapel.org. Sunday: 10:45am Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wed.: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Corey McLaughlin

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NEW PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Book club for kids. Do you know what reading times two equals? More learning, more laughs, more fun! If you'd like to multiply your joy in reading, a book club might be just the thing you're looking for.

A new book club for children aged 9-12 will be held at the Sheffield Library during November and December. It meets every other Thursday after school, from 3 to 4pm. The first meeting, on Nov. 3, will talk about *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall. For information or questions, contact the Sheffield Library at 229-7004.

Storytime for preschoolers. Once a month from now to April, the Library has lined up leaders in Sheffield's faith commu-

nity to share their favorite stories with preschoolers. On Wed., Nov.

16, the storyteller will be Rev. Anne E. Ryder, Rector/Pastor of Christ Episcopal Church/Trinity Lutheran Church. On Wed., Dec. 14, it will be Dick Magenis, deacon at Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Church. The program continues in 2012. On Jan. 10, the storyteller will be Rev. Betty LeGeyt, a retired Methodist minister who is also one of the Library's trustees.

In addition to the stories, there will be singing, music and snacks.



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Friends of the Library book sale

The Library Book Sale, held over the weekend of Oct. 21-23, raised more than \$4,000 to support Library programs. The Friends of the Library hold the sale every fall, but donations are welcome all year round. Call the Library at 229-7003 for more information.

LOCAL AUTHOR TO GIVE BOOK TALK NOV. 11

Hester Velmans, Sheffield resident and author of the best-selling children's book *Isabel Of The Whales*, will give a talk on her new book, *Jessaloup's Song*, at 2pm on Fri., Nov. 11 at the Library.

Readers of the first book were disappointed when Isabel, after living as a whale for one whole year, had to return to life on land in human form, says Velmans, who also works as a literary translator. She was persuaded to write a follow-up to provide the ending they were hoping for, which she does, with "a surprise twist," she says.

Velmans describes her works as in the "eco-romance" genre. *Isabel Of The Whales* was praised for its environmental message and has been used in schools to teach ocean life and marine-mammal biology. The book's aim was also to empower young girls.

Velmans recalls, "When my daughter was ten, eleven, she was frustrated because she wanted to change the world and no one took her seriously. And I thought: What would it be like for a little girl to find herself transformed into the biggest, most powerful animal in the world? How could she use her human knowledge to make an impact on another species, and save lives?"

In the followup to *Isabel of the Whales*, the roles are reversed, and it is the whale who is charged with imparting his species' wisdom to humankind.

Jessaloup's Song is published by van Horton Books. It's priced at \$9.95 (\$5.95 for an e-book).

Ben Hillman, a local author/filmmaker, has created a video trailer for the book. You can see it on YouTube; search for "Jessaloup."

LOCAL AUTHORS' DAY TO TAKE PLACE ON NOV. 5

On Sat., Nov. 5, from 10am to 12:30pm, the Library will present its eighth Local Authors' Day celebration. Come and meet some of the talented writers who live and work in our corner of the tri-state area. You'll be able to purchase their books and have them autographed.

Are you a parent or grandparent? Twelve children's authors will be joining us, so bring your kids and introduce them to the folks who write and illustrate some of their favorite books.

Would you like the inside scoop on the world of baseball? Come meet Jim Bouton, former New York Yankees pitcher and best-selling author. Are you a poet and lover of language? Then you'll want to chat with poets David Giannini and Chris Nye and look at their books.

Is photography your passion? Paul Rocheleau's and Stephen Donaldson's beautiful books are sure to be of special interest and make great gifts. Members of the Ruth Bass fan club will want to stop by, say hello, and pick up a copy of her latest book.

How did your garden grow this year? Ron Kujawski and his daughter, Jennifer Kujawski have written a fabulous book on growing vegetables that is sure to help yield a bumper crop.

Do you love a good mystery? Mary Moody, Leslie Wheeler, Elise Title, and Judith Papachristou will be joining us.

Are you a history buff? Several historians will be in attendance, along with memoirist Kevin O'Hara with his tales of growing up Irish in Pittsfield.

For additional information, call the Library at 229-7004.

—Susan Young

POETRY AT LIBRARY

On Sat., Nov. 26, the Bushnell-Sage Library will host its fifth "poetry read-around" from 4 to 5pm. The idea for the read-arounds came from a poetry reading at the library last April in celebration of National Poetry Month. Two local poets, Michelle Gillett and William Hunt, read their work that day to a very appreciative audience.

After the reading, many who stayed for refreshments and to talk about poetry said they'd like to have a regular poetry event. The first read-around was held in July.

A read-around is a wonderful opportunity for poets to share their work and to hear other poets read aloud. The readings generate lively discussion about the poems presented and provide a platform for the exchange of ideas about the writing process.

You don't have to write poetry to participate. All that's required is a love of language and the spoken word. Anyone can bring a poem to read, whether it's one they've written or one by a favorite poet.

The read-arounds have generated interest in other forms of poetry presentations and workshops, and the Library plans to develop additional opportunities for local writers in 2012.

The library's poetry collection has recently been enlarged with many new books. Most of the collection has been relocated to the main floor of the library, where it has been designated as the Poetry Place.

Another read-around is set for Dec. 17. Dates for 2012 will be announced in late December. Come join us in exploring the beauty and power of language as experienced through poetry. —Frances Roth

FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

July 18 working meeting

After discussion, the Board decided to send a memo to employees saying that they should notify their department head and/or co-workers if they are going to be out of the office on a workday. The Board also set up a meeting with Building Inspector Thomas Carmody on July 25.

Richard Cappadona, the town's electrical inspector, has asked to increase his fees by \$5 per inspection. Discussion was tabled until information on fees in surrounding towns can be obtained.

After Selectman Dave Smith, Jr., expressed concern over a trip charge included in invoices for servicing, the Board decided to check with all departments using A-1 Security to find out if there are any issues with its service.

July 18 regular meeting

The Board held a public hearing on the application from Architects Development Co., doing business as Barn Space Catering, for an all alcoholic beverages license for the Events Barn and contiguous lawn area at 864 South Undermountain Rd. Nicholas Arienti presented the application for the applicant, Michael Rothstein. Michael and David Rothstein were present. The same space was previously granted several one-day wine and malt licenses. The Events Barn is used for private parties only. After discussion, the license was granted.

Priscilla Cote, chair of the Board of Health, and Tom Matuszko from Berkshire Regional Planning Commis-

sion were present to discuss the Berkshire Public Health Alliance, which the Board of Health has voted to join pending approval from the Board of Selectmen. After discussion ensued, the Board voted

GOEWY NEW ASSISTANT TO TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Jennifer Goewey has been named assistant to the town administrator, replacing Rhonda LaBombard, who became Sheffield's Town Administrator on August 1.

Jenn lives in Sheffield with her husband, Shawn, and two children. She previously worked in the Egremont Selectmen's office and is the Assistant Collector /Treasurer in Egremont. She grew up in Ashley Falls and is a graduate of Mt. Everett High School.

"We are very happy to have Jenn. She will be a wonderful asset to the Town Hall, and we all look forward to working with her," says Rhonda.

to send the document to Town Counsel for review. Cote also explained the Board of Health's request for increased salaries and compensation. The Board approved the increases as submitted, except for changing the Health Inspector's inspection fee to \$26.

David West resigned from the Historical Commission and Lisa Scibelli from the Library. The Board accepted both resignations and voted to send letters

Continued on page 14



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MINUTES, continued from page 13

of thanks. The Board appointed Anne Hyatt and Kathy Staropoli to three-year terms on the Council on Aging, Kathy Orlando to a one-year term as an alternate member of the Housing Commission, Laurie Hils to a one-year term as Veterans' Agent and George Oleen to a one-year term as Health Inspector.

Six bids were received for the summer paving: H. Maxymillian, \$87.79 per ton; Lane Construction, \$85.00; Delsignore Blacktop Paving, \$77.00; Williams Paving, \$74.74; LB Corp., \$73.85; and Tri-Town Paving, \$72.72. The Board awarded the contract to the lowest bidder, Tri-Town Paving, contingent on the availability of Chapter 90 funds from the Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation.

July 25 working meeting

Interim Administrator Joe Kellogg noted that the Town received a grant from the Municipal Recycling Facility to fund the

position of Recycling Educator for the summer. Lila Milukas had been hired to fill that position, which will end on July 31. She submitted a written report on the program with some recommendations that might help increase recycling awareness. After discussion, the Board decided the program was successful in increasing recycling awareness.

Building Inspector Carmody was present to discuss a draft letter prepared by Town Counsel regarding the Private Restricted Landing Area on Galvin Farm Trail. After some discussion, the Board decided to continue it so the Board could review the information from Town Counsel. Carmody also said he has sent two letters regarding removal of signs for businesses that have closed. No further action has been taken regarding two properties previously discussed, one for demolition, the other regarding apartments.

The Board had been set to meet in executive session to discuss Carmody's performance, but Carmody asked that the discussion be in open session. Chairman Wood explained that there would be no public comments allowed during the discussion. Carmody introduced State Building Inspector Gordon Bailey as his representative. The Board expressed their concerns to Carmody, and discussion ensued.

The Board will choose a new Town Administrator on July 28. [*Rhonda LaBombard was hired, effective Aug. 1.*]

August 1 working meeting

Interim Administrator Kellogg and Highway Superintendent Edward Lord interviewed three applicants for the position of Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer and recommended appointment of Ryan Shimmon. The Board agreed.

Last year, the Town asked for bids on surplus compactor boxes from the transfer station. JTC and Sons won the bid, which included a proposal to purchase the roll-off box used for metal recycling. JTC has now reconfirmed its proposal to purchase the box, which is in need of repair, for \$250. Interim Administrator Kellogg recommended amending the contract to

allow the sale, and the Board agreed.

After discussion, the Board decided to increase the fees for the electrical inspector, plumbing and gas inspector and fire safety inspector by \$5 per inspection.

Chairman Wood and newly appointed Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard will meet to discuss the position of Assistant Town Administrator.

Chairman Wood stated that the cost estimated by Special Town Counsel Bracket and Lucas to pursue the enforcement of the Private Restricted Landing Area on 114 Galvin Farm Trail would be \$2,000 to \$3,000. John R. Hanlon, Jr., the property owner, will be invited to a future meeting to discuss the situation.

August 1 regular meeting

The Board unanimously voted to appoint Rhonda LaBombard as the new Town Administrator. She thanked the Board for her appointment. Selectman Julie Hannum noted that Interim Administrator Kellogg has almost finished his service with the Town and wanted to acknowledge his four years of service. His last task will be to address residents at the Special Town Meeting on August 10.

The Board appointed Allison Lasso to a three-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Richard Boardman to a three-year term as Fire Chief.

Board of Health Chair Priscilla Cote was present to recommend the appointment of Jill Hughes as Board of Health Clerk at the rate of \$15 per hour for 4 to 6 hours a week. The Board approved. Cote also updated the Board on the Berkshire Health Alliance. Special Town Counsel Gary Brackett will be contacted for review of the plan before the Board takes any action.

The Planning Board has asked for a committee to review the zoning bylaws, which, after discussion, the Board decided to support. Anyone interested in serving on such a committee should contact Planning Board Chairman David Smith, Sr. The Planning Board will submit a list of applicants to the Board for approval.

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mittee asked the Board to suspend this committee until membership can be increased to seven members, which the Board did. Selectman Hannum thanked the members of the committee and asked that anyone wishing to be appointed to contact the Town Administrator's office.

Chairman Wood noted that Mass Broadband has begun work in Sandisfield and that Time Warner has begun the build-out that will increase access to residents that currently do not have cable access.

August 10 working meeting

Gary Brackett from Brackett and Lucas was interviewed for the position of Town Counsel.

August 15 working meeting

The Board appointed Selectman Smith, Grace Campbell and John-Arthur Miller to a committee to work on the landscaping for the Senior Center.

Before discussion of the Board of Health's business regarding Century Acquisitions' application to build an asphalt plant on Clayton Rd., Chairman Wood noted that before she was on the Board, she was one of the founders of the No Asphalt Defense Fund and appeared as an advocate at two Zoning Board of Appeals hearings. Before she was elected to the Board of Selectmen, she contacted the State Ethics Commission for actions that should be followed as an elected official. Accordingly, she resigned from the defense fund and has no contact other than being personal friends of its members. Board of Health Chair Cote then updated the Board on complaints that have been received regarding noise and dust. The Board of Health conducted a site visit to Century Acquisitions and sent a letter to the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection with recommendations. Discussion ensued regarding the Board of Health's meeting postings and agendas.

The Board discussed the Building Inspector's hours and asked a schedule be worked out for the Board to approve.

The Board discussed a letter from Edward Rodriguez, attorney for John Hanlon, concerning the landing area at his Galvin Farm Trail property. Hanlon and his attorney will be invited to meet

with the Board. Administrator LaBombard and Carmody will hold a conference call with Special Town Counsel Ellen Doucette regarding the letter, as well as discussing the sign violations for the businesses that have closed.

August 15 regular meeting

Police Chief Jim McGarry introduced Tricia Wilkinson and Christopher Jackson and recommended their appointment and that of Shawn Reagan (away on military service for two weeks) as reserve intermittent police officers. The Board appointed them to one-year probationary terms.

McGarry also recommended the re-appointment of Justin Biasin and David Moynihan as regular reserve intermittent officers for a term to expire on June 30, 2013. The Board did so.

Administrator LaBombard noted results from the Aug. 10 Special Town Meeting. Article #1, approving a school budget assessment in the amount of \$5,812,155, passed by a vote of 74 yes, 73 no. Since Sheffield is the fourth town to approve the budget, the Southern Berkshires Regional School District now has an approved FY2012 operating budget. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed bond issue for capital expenditures.

Selectman Hannum stated that she attended a meeting with the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust and Sheffield Water Company regarding the loan for the installation of a water storage tank. She drafted a letter of support for the project, which points out that the Water Company has given the Town the right of first refusal in the event of any sale or issues. The Board voted to approve and sign the letter.

Chairman Wood stated that she would like to begin preparing for the negotiations with the school district unions. Discussion ensued.

Administrator LaBombard stated that portions of County Rd. and Home Rd. would be paved soon.

George Oleen was present and inquired on the status of the storage shed for the American Legion. Discussion ensued and was tabled until the next meeting.

Oleen also distributed information regarding flag collection boxes for flags that are no longer needed. After discussion, the Board agreed to approve the boxes pending approval from the Fire Chief.

August 22 regular meeting

Three proposals have been received for the storage shed the Town has agreed to buy for the American Legion: Sheds and Stuff, \$7,958; Shed Man, \$8,553 and Berkshire Fence, \$8,450. The Board decided to accept the proposal from Sheds and Stuff, pending clarification of the 2 x 6 rafters and roof pitch.

Elton Ogden from Berkshire Housing Development Corp. has requested a letter of completion for the grant-funded portion of the Senior Center construction. That prompted the Board to discuss the remaining outstanding items to be completed at the center. The Board voted to sign the letter of completion.

The Board appointed Administrator LaBombard as the Town's representative to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority.

The Board scheduled a site visit for Aug. 29 to look at issues regarding property on Clayton Rd. Ed Lord from the Highway Dept. and Jared Clayton, the property owner, will be invited to attend.

The Board decided to discuss the appointment of Thomas Carmody as Building Inspector at the Oct. 3 meeting.

Attorney Mark Reich from Kopelman and Paige was present to interview for the position of Town Counsel.

August 26 working meeting

The Selectmen held a meeting at the police station to declare a state of emergency in anticipation of hurricane Irene.

August 29 working meeting

Highway Superintendent Edward Lord and Jared Clayton were present at the site visit to Clayton Rd. Lord stated that the Hillside Lane drainage system is working well. The water from the recent storms was not an issue for the road or neighboring properties. The Board decided that the Highway Dept. would continue to scrape the sides of the road to make sure that

Continued on page 16

MINUTES, continued from page 15

drainage there is handled properly and then seed and hay the disrupted areas.

The meeting continued at Town Hall. Town Clerk Felecie Joyce was present to discuss the state's new regulations regarding the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. She and the Board agreed that the Town would not sell hunting and fishing licenses as of the first of the year.

Fire Chief Rick Boardman was present to discuss stipends for members of the Fire Dept. who complete Firefighter I and II training. The Board decided to pay them \$1,000. Fire Dept. members Ronald Bubak, Kevin Learnard and Anthony Bleu have graduated from the training and will be invited to a future Board meeting to be presented with a certificate of accomplishment.

Following up on business from the August 15 meeting, Chief Boardman said that he did not have a problem with the American Legion placing boxes to collect unserviceable flags as long as they were inside a building.

Jeremia Pollard from Hannon Lerner was present to interview for the position of Town Counsel.

Following up on business from the July 18 meeting, the Board decided to prorate the alcoholic beverages license fee for the Architects Development Co., doing business as Barn Space Catering at \$437.68.

Sept. 6 regular meeting

Administrator LaBombard updated the Board on the effects of Hurricane Irene. Some town roads were closed due to

flooding, and several trees that had to be removed from the roadways.

The Board voted to appoint the following to the Planning Board's Bylaw Review Committee: David A. Smith, Sr., Christopher Tomich, Anthony Gulotta, Peter Cherneff and Eric Carlson. Selectman Smith abstained from the vote.

The Board discussed the three candidates interviewed for the position of Town Counsel. Selectmen Smith and Hannum voted to appoint Kopelman and Paige as Town Council for Fiscal Year 2012, with Selectman Wood dissenting. It was the consensus of the Board to continue to use Mirick O'Connell as labor counsel and Brackett and Lucas for the landing strip zoning enforcement issue.

The Board decided that its search committee for assistant to the Town Administrator would be Selectmen Hannum and Smith and Administrator LaBombard.

Chairman Wood reported that Sheffield Water Co. has received a low interest loan for the installation of a water storage tank on Water Farm Rd. Beth Bartholomew thanked the Board for its support.

Administrator LaBombard stated that the Town recently received a recycling rebate from the Materials Recycling Facility in the amount of \$4,655.68.

A letter was received regarding the Tour DaVita, a bike ride supporting research into kidney disease that will go through Sheffield on Sept. 18. Chief McGarry stated that he had no problem with the ride, and the Board voted to send a letter of approval to the ride's organizers.

Chairman Wood stated that she and Chief McGarry worked on the corrections to the EMS Service Zone Plan and the plan is now ready for signatures.

September 13 working meeting

On Sept. 13, the search committee for assistant to the Town Administrator agreed to interview these people for the position: Mary Ellen Deming, Leslie Ann Furcht, Jennifer Goewey, Jan Nelson and Deborah Wright. [The interviews took place on Sept. 16 and 19. Goewey was hired; see story on page 13.]

September 19 working meeting

Chief McGarry was present to discuss the possible renumbering of portions of South Undermountain Rd, and the Board decided to proceed with the project. Once the plans are finalized, they will be discussed with the Board before being implemented.

September 19 regular meeting

Susan Butler was present to inquire about the zoning enforcement issue regarding the landing strip on Galvin Farm Trail and on the process to request a warrant article for the Annual Town Meeting. [See also Planning Board notes, page 18.]

The Board approved a curb cut for 927 Boardman St. It developed a charge for the River Parks Task Force. Members will be contacted to set up the first meeting.

Selectman Hannum congratulated the organizers of the Sheffield Fair for another successful fair this past weekend.

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SENIOR CENTER NEWS

Things are hopping over at the Sheffield Senior Center at 25 Cook Rd.! The Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center's October Tag Sale was a great success, netting \$1,500 which will go toward the purchase of My Senior Center, an industry-specific software program that will allow the Center to organize and track its data, programming and finances, which in turn will support the reporting necessary to the town and state.

Also in October, the Council on Aging sponsored an After-Dinner Dance, featuring music from the 40s, 50s and 60s, which was enjoyed by many. And the Center's Third Thursday Luncheon, featuring harvest soups and salads, included a daffodil bed planting party.

Coming up in November are some new programs, including a weekly series to learn about preventing falls, sponsored by the Lee Visiting Nurses. Falling is a serious risk for everyone, and the course offers in-depth training on how to avoid falls. The six sessions are sequential, so you will want to attend as many as possible.

A new program, called the "Art of Storytelling," started Oct. 31 and will run for four Mondays. Led by Joel Dancingfire, a part-Cherokee storyteller, those attending will learn how to make their own stories more compelling.

The first two of three intergenerational collaborations with Mount Everett Regional High School students begins with a product prototype design project. Taking place over three weeks, students from the Foundations of Design class will meet

SILK LEAVES DVDS TO SENIOR CENTER

Bill Silk, Sr., a long-time resident of Sheffield, was a long-time member of the Council On Aging and for many years its chairman. He guided the senior program through hectic times in the late 1990s, a time when there was no director of the Senior Center director. He served on several search committees for a senior center building and also served on all the senior committees for programming and activities.

Bill died a few weeks ago. He left his entire collection of DVDs and their special display shelves to the Senior Center. The Council on Aging is currently cataloging them and will make them available to seniors in town.

The Senior Center has set up a cozy corner with a computer and earphones so that any senior may sit down and enjoy any of the DVDs. Just sign in with one of the volunteers, and they will get you started on how to use the computer. Thank you, Bill. —Pauline W. Schumann

with seniors, interview them to discover how modified products might aid them in some physical task, brainstorm about the concepts and work on prototypes. In December, at the annual Senior Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 1, students present a public overview of what they've come up with.

Also taking place at the Holiday Luncheon will be a photo booth run by students of the Photography Class. Seniors will be encouraged to dress up in period costumes borrowed from the theater department and sit for a portrait. Sounds like fun!

More information can be found in the Center's monthly newsletter, on the town web site under Additional Links or call John-Arthur Miller, Director, at 229-7037.

FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER

Thanks for the senior center tag sale. The Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center wish to thank everyone involved in making the Oct. 22 tag sale a resounding success! The event could not have happened without all the volunteers who helped set up, clean up and run the sale.

The Friends especially want to thank the people of Sheffield for their wonderful donations. The quantity and the quality were truly impressive. And of course, thanks to all who bought the treasures that were offered. The proceeds will go toward software for the Sheffield Senior Center, as described in the article above.

Books wanted. The Friends of the Senior Center have arranged with a Massachusetts/New Hampshire company called Got Books to give Sheffield residents a place to get rid of unwanted books and at the same time benefit the Senior Center. The company has placed a large metal container just beyond the shed near the Center's parking lot. It accepts hardcover and paperback books (no textbooks, please), audio books, DVDs, compact discs and vinyl records and pays 3 cents a pound, or \$200 to \$600 per full container. The company uses what it collects to supply its chain of used-book stores.

Computers for the center. The major project of the past year has been to buy computers and associated equipment. The Friends' efforts equipped the Director and Assistant Director with computers and printers and the software to administer the center. They also bought laptop computers for computer classes.

A beginning computer class is currently offered every Wednesday at 10 am. More advanced classes in Word and Photoshop will begin this fall.

Seniors at the Sheffield Fair. On Sept. 10, Sheffield seniors were well represented at the annual Sheffield in Celebration event. Our booth, staffed by members of the Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center and the Council on Aging, had a vast array of homemade baked goods for sale. We also made popcorn, spreading a wonderful aroma throughout the pavilion, and handed it out free.

In addition to food, the Seniors sold slap bracelets, hand-made refrigerator magnets featuring bluebirds and raffle tickets for a beautiful handmade afghan. Winnie Varetto from SHINE, which helps seniors with health insurance issues, was there to answer questions and give out information.

Throughout the event, two video slideshows were playing, one showing the construction of the new Senior Center from start to finish and the other showing the fun and informative activities that regularly occur at the Center.

Annual meeting scheduled. The Friends will have their annual meeting on Tues., Nov. 15, at 10:30 at the Senior Center. Officers for 2012 are Claudia Martin, president; Michelle Harwood, first vice-president; Kathy Posey, second vice-president; Tom Tighe, treasurer; and Gail Tighe, clerk.

Friends meetings are open to the public and scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 at the Senior Center. —Claudia Martin & Pauline W. Schumann

PLANNING BOARD NEWS: meetings Aug. 24-Oct. 26

In September, the Planning Board resumed its regular schedule of meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. In November, the Board will meet on the second and third Wednesday due to Thanksgiving. In December the Board will meet only once, on Dec. 14.

Special Permit approved for Honor Blume to expand dog kennel. Blume's application to expand the capacity of the existing dog kennel at 124 Cook Rd. from 28 to 50 dogs, was reviewed by the Planning Board and a public hearing on the application was held on Aug. 24. Neighbors brought up concerns about increased noise. On Sept. 7, the Board unanimously approved the application, with conditions that were noted on the written form.

Special Permit granted for single-family lot. James Iulo sought approval for a single family, residential lot of about 23 acres on property owned by him on County Rd. After a hearing on Sept. 28, the application was approved.

Silver St. Special Permit application. Bill Heaton is considering purchasing a building at 65 Silver St., in a commercial zone, to start a brewery with his wife. He submitted a Special Permit to the Planning Board on Oct. 26. The hearing is scheduled for Nov. 16 at 7pm.

Form A applications (approval not required for subdivision). The Board accepted a Form A application from Ben Hillman & Co., which bought a prop-

erty next door to its current property and is changing the lot lines.

The Board also accepted Barbara Delmolino's Form A application with regard to a series of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs) arranged in conjunction with the Sheffield Land Trust and the MA Depts. of Agricultural Resources and Fish & Game. (See story on page 10.) One APR on open meadow and wet pasture covers 21 acres, another APR 22.5 acres and another APR 15 acres. Yet another parcel will be sold to Fish & Game. A two-acre lot, with outbuildings, will be excluded. Two other one-acre parcels will also be excluded.

Complaint regarding a private air strip. Susan Butler, of 181 Shunpike Rd., came to the Sept. 28 meeting to say that she and her husband are unable to sell a 26-acre building lot because of a landing strip on an abutting property, which has had a private residential landing area since 1986. That property is owned by John Hanlon. Butler complained that Hanlon has not received a cease and desist order from the Town of Sheffield. She requested that the Planning Board put the issue before the voters in May 2012, directing the Board of Selectman to issue such an order.

Planning Board member Cherneff asked whether this was a matter to take to the Selectman, but Board member Smith advised that the Selectman had sent the matter to the Planning Board.

HOUSING COMMISSION

Interested in creating an accessory apartment? The Housing Commission has scheduled an informational meeting about how to work with the new accessory apartment by-law for Wed., Nov. 16 at 6:30pm. All homeowners are invited to attend to learn more about this new opportunity.

The conditions and requirements in the by-law will be reviewed and explained, with plenty of time reserved for questions from the audience. Sheffield's building inspector, Tom Carmody, and members of the Planning Board and the Housing Commission will be in attendance to answer practical "how to" questions and provide assistance. The meeting will be held at Town Hall.

The by-law, which was passed at the town's Annual Meeting in May, provides an expanded mechanism for property owners to create an accessory apartment—often called an "in-law apartment." The bylaw defines such apartments as "a second dwelling unit located within the principal building or structure, or an accessory building or structure that is subordinate to the principal dwelling unit." The purpose is to increase the availability of "workforce" housing in Sheffield and provide homeowners with a means of obtaining rental income, companionship, security and/or services.

DISABILITIES COMMISSION

The Commission on Disabilities' Speaker Series will go on hiatus for November and December but will begin again in 2012 with a presentation by Dawn Matthews of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Berkshire County. She will demonstrate a variety of assistive technologies that help with deficits in vision, hearing, speech and touch and that may be taken out on loan from her organization. The talk will be held at the Sheffield Senior Center on Thurs., Jan. 19, at about 12:45pm, with a potluck luncheon at noon. All are welcome.

The Commission is grateful to all of the organizations that took part in the 2011 Speaker Series.

The Commission has several membership openings. Sheffield residents who have an interest in furthering the mission of achieving full integration and participation of people with disabilities in Sheffield, including individuals with disabilities, are encouraged to apply. For more information, call 229-7000 Ext. 152, email rlabombard@sheffieldma.gov or see www.sheffieldma.gov.

—Laura Grunfeld, Interim Chair

Butler presented the Board with a written summary of her issue, and Smith said that the Board would review the matter. [See also the excerpted minutes of the Board of Selectman on page 13.]

Board business. A committee was formed to review the bylaws, headed by Chris Tomich and including Tony Gulotta, Peter Cherneff, Dave Smith, Sr., and Eric Carlson. Tomich sees the committee as permanent, continuing to improve the bylaws. It has had two meetings so far and plans to meet every fourth Wednesday at 6pm, right before the Planning Board meeting, in the Town Hall.

The Planning Board intended that the committee have seven members, but its requests to the Board of Selectmen that David Macy and David West be appointed to the committee were denied. Meetings of the Bylaw Review Committee are suspended until further notice.

The Board appointed David Smith, Sr., as the Planning Board Liaison with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

—Nadia Milleron
Planning Board Secretary

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: July 25, Aug. 8 & 22 meetings

In July and August, the Commission held two Public Hearings on a Request for Determination of Applicability of wetlands regulations:

• Pat Molholt and Louis Levine, 261 East Main St., for construction of 20 x 30-foot garage. The building will be a rebuilt existing barn frame on a new foundation or a floating slab. It will be insulated and have heating and electricity. Louis Levine stated that the project area is approximately 70 feet from the wetland boundary.

After site inspections by the Commission, it issued a negative determination on the application with the conditions that appropriate silt fencing be installed and the Commission be given notification 24 hours prior to the project start.

• Walter and Mary Chatham, 99 Park Ln., construction of a Drip Rite Dispersal System to upgrade an existing non-compliant sewage disposal system greater than 50 feet from the bordering vegetated wetlands.

Engineers from White Engineering explained the proposed project. It entails installing a pump chamber and septic tank, with trenches dug for special piping designed to release equal amounts of effluent throughout the leach field. The pipes will be installed 6 inches underground and will be insulated to protect them from freezing. No additional fill will be brought in. Some trees will need to be removed, though fewer than if a conventional system were used. An excavator will be used and will be brought in by paths behind the school buildings on Berkshire School Rd. The existing system will remain where it is.

There is a vernal pool on the property, but no wildlife was observed in it. The property is also in an Area of Critical Environment Concern, but no wetlands will be altered. Silt fencing will be installed. The existing bridge will remain as it is.

The Commission wanted to be sure that no work would occur beyond the silt fencing and that the bridge not be used for accessing the project. Since the proposed location of the septic is less than 100 feet from the existing well, a variance was obtained from the Board of Health. If that well fails, another site is available a full 100 feet away from the septic.

The Commission, which had made two

site visits, issued a negative determination on the application with the conditions that silt barriers be placed as shown on the plan and that all traffic come in through the back of the school, nothing over the bridge. The Commission asked to be notified when pumping is occurring. If future access is no longer permitted from school property, the Commission wishes to be notified so that appropriate precautions can be specified if the bridge is used.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) updated the Commission about the restoration taking place on the Kilbon property on S. Undermountain Rd. and future projects. Leslie Luchonock, from TNC, showed photographs taken in March and that morning. The area had been regraded, with straw waddles and ground coverage installed. Water was flowing into the pond area, and the overall hydrology of the site had been restored to its former condition. TNC would like to keep the grassy areas mowed to retain open fields.

Another property southeast of the Kilbon property also needs restoration. An abutter had violated the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act by excavating in and around a pond and placing the dredged matter onto the bordering vegetated wetlands. TNC would like to do a similar restoration there and will come back with a plan in October. It will have to work with Natural Heritage and the Endangered Species program on this project because of the presence of a rare species on the site.

There were several discussions of possible violations on the property of Edward Ustico, Polikoff Rd. In the past, Ustico had been served with an enforcement order by the Conservation Commission to restore the property. The restoration had been completed to the satisfaction of the Commission, which then issued a Certificate of Compliance.

Abutters to this property, including Jared Clayton and Martha Viera, have stated that Ustico had apparently undone much of the restoration work and had built an unauthorized road. Ustico was apparently continuing to do unpermitted mowing and excavating on the property and was recently observed bulldozing. The Commission had observed the site and saw that there was tree removal and traffic over the road by the bog. It was planning a site visit, pending agreement

from the property owner.

Terry Eucker from the Berkshire Conservation Agent Program was also present at one of the discussions and was hired by the Commission to assess the extent of wetlands on the property. Once a site visit is made, she can determine whether areas in question are only areas subject to flooding or are actual wetlands.

In other business, the Commission met with Matt Boardman of the Housatonic Railroad, who said that herbicidal spraying along the tracks would not be conducted this year. The Commission expressed concerns about unregulated spraying. He stated that markers on the railroad ties designated no spray, light spray or full spray areas. Hand removal of vegetation was also used, if necessary. Adjacent properties were checked beforehand for the existence of nearby wells or wetland areas. In addition, the tracks were inspected regularly for safety reasons.

The Commission was copied on a letter from the Town regarding the drainage problem on Hillside Ln.

Sheffield Kiwanis Harvest Brunch

Sunday, Nov. 6, 9:30am to 12:30pm
American Legion Hall, Sheffield

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or any Kiwanis member

TOWN CLERK NEWS

Hunting and fishing. Hunting season has begun (see box at right). Hunting and fishing licenses will be available from this office through the end of 2011. Starting in 2012, the Town of Sheffield will no longer sell hunting and fishing license or stamps. The state will be implementing a new computerized system. If you have questions or concerns, contact the office or the Divisions of Fisheries and Wildlife directly by calling 508-389-6300. We apologize for any inconvenience.

ASSESSORS & COLLECTORS

Actual property tax bills will be out sometime in December. Have any questions? Call the Collectors office at 229-7000 x153. For questions on valuation, contact the Assessors office at x155.

For further information, follow the links on the town website under "Town Clerk" and "Hunting Information for Sheffield" to the Massachusetts Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife's website at www.mass.gov/masswildlife. Sheffield is located in wildlife management zone 3.

Elections and voter registration. Our area has no elections this fall, but voter registration is available year round. If you have questions, contact the Town Clerk's office or visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sec.state.ma.us/e.

Attention business owners! If you hold a trade-name certificate (d.b.a.), be sure it's still current. Certificates are valid for four years from the application date. Check yours to see if you are due for renewal. Call the Town Clerk's

DEER SEASON

Deer season for archery this year runs from Oct. 17 to Nov. 26. Shotgun season is Nov. 28 to Dec. 10, and primitive firearms season is Dec. 12 to 31.

There is no hunting on Sunday. Hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Sheffield requires written permission to hunt on private or town-owned property. Hunting is not permitted within 500 feet of any dwelling or building except as authorized by the owner or occupant, nor within 150 feet of any state or hard-surfaced highway.

office with any questions.

Dog licensing. If you have not licensed your dog this year, please do so immediately! If you have a dog six months of age or older and you reside in Sheffield a minimum of 30 days of the year, you are required to license your dog. Licensing takes place each year from March 1 to May 1. Fees are \$10 for intact dogs, \$5 for spayed/neutered dogs. There's a fine of \$25 per dog after May 1. If you acquire a new dog, it can be licensed anytime of year at the regular rate. For further information, call the Town Clerk.

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The **Mark Dewey Research Center** houses the town's early archives, including tax and real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open most Mondays and Fridays, from 1:30 to 4pm, year round.

The 1834 **Old Stone Store** located on the Town Green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space. Open weekends April to December.

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LAND TRUST FALL WALK

Every fall, the Sheffield Land Trust holds a guided walk on conserved private land. This year's walk took place on Oct. 23. The guide was Rene Wendell, the naturalist/ranger at Barthomew's Cobble (at right in picture). He led a group through fields and woods on Tobey Hill Farm on LeGeyt Rd. in the south part of town. The Agricultural Preservation Restriction that protects more than 300 acres of Tobey Hill Farm was one of the Land Trust's first such conservation measures, done in conjunction with Mass Audubon, The Nature Conservancy and other groups in 1994.

SHEFFIELD 4-H TRAILBLAZERS

Prizes. Sheffield's 4-H Trailblazers won first place at the Berkshire County 4-H Fair in August and second place at the Goshen, CT, Agricultural Fair in September for their education display on Southern Berkshire Waterfalls.

Food drive. Starting in October and continuing into November, the group is conducting a food drive for the Sheffield Food Assistance Program. The pantry's shelves are in great need of re-stocking, especially as winter approaches. There are containers for donations at the Sheffield Library, the New Marlborough Library, Christ Church Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran Church, the Rudolf Steiner School and New Marlborough Central School. Every donation is greatly appreciated!

—Diana Williams



The winning display is shown off by Jaclyn Derwitsch, Sebastian Lawson, Kristen Wolfe, Thomas Williams and Audrey Bartzsch. Also in the group are Adam Derwitsch, Elizabeth Hotaling and Charlotte Smith.

COBBLE EVENTS

Owl Moon: Night Hike

Sat., Nov. 26, 7pm. What's going on in the woods at night? Come for a naturalist-led walk through forest, field and along the river while listening for owls and coyotes. We'll listen to the calls of several species and try to draw them in. Members \$4; family \$12. Nonmembers \$6; family \$15.

Hot Chocolate Saturdays

Saturdays, December-March, 9am-4pm. Visit with The Trustees of Reservations ranger, learn about winter tracks and birds and venture out on the trails or sled on Hurlburt's Hill. Afterward, come to the Visitor Center for complimentary hot chocolate. Snowshoes can be rented for on-site use. Adults \$5, children, members and Sheffield residents free.

Snowshoe Trek

Sat., Dec. 18, 10am-12 noon. Join a Trustees of Reservations guide to explore the Cobble and beyond with an easy-to-moderate snowshoe hike. Members \$5, nonmembers \$10. Snowshoe rental included. Call or email to let us know you are coming.

Ashley House Interpretive Center

Open all year. Come and see the new Interpretive Center that celebrates the story of Elizabeth Freeman and her Legacy. This project was made possible by a grant from the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Area and in partnership with the UMASS Amherst Public History Program.

The Trustees of Reservations manage Bartholomew's Cobble, a National Natural Landmark, on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor's Center is open from 9am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday during winter. Regular admission is free for members of The Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield residents. Non-members: \$5 adult, \$1 child. Call 229-8600 or email bcobble@ttor.org.

REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

June

- 17 Regina Paolillo to Samuel & Judy A. Goldfarb, property at 230 Rote Hill Rd., \$1,590,000.
- 28 Leonard & Jeanette H. Johnson Bloness to Paul M. Jr. & Lynn Baumann, property at 351 Water Farm Rd., \$216,000.

July

- 1 Christine L. Jenks to John W. Clouser, Jr., property at 295/297 Clayton Rd., \$245,000.
- 1 Lynne M. DeLisle to David & Doris Hutton, property at 1014 Salisbury Rd., \$225,000.
- 14 Hyland Country Investments to Pete & Christiane Dousmanis, property at Home Rd., \$92,500.
- 15 Jeffrey Hellerbach to Glenn W. Muscosky & Heather S. Mee, property at 238 Cooper Hill Rd., \$567,500.

August

- 5 Christopher J. & Ashley J. Everett to James A. & Margaret B.T. Wiviott, property at 1491 Boardman St., \$675,000.
- 8 Tessie Newmark to Berkshire School, property

at 295 North Undermountain Rd., \$315,000.

- 17 Ellen C. Emprimo & William T. Chapin, Trustee of the Revocable Inter Vivos Trust of William T. Chapin to Morven Allen, property at 199 Hewins St., \$140,000.
- 19 Sharon Bassett to Karen A. Muir, property at 334 Clayton Rd., \$190,800.
- 25 Elias T. & Kathleen O'Leary Lefferman to Steffen E. Root & Melissa J. Dufault, property at 74 South Main St., \$187,500.
- 31 Tustin's Nominee Realty Trust to Samuel Ritt, William C. Ritt & Joan Sussman, property at 518 Berkshire School Rd., \$245,000.

September

- 12 Philip H. Coons, Brian J. Coons & Barbara Frengs to George Soudant, Jr., property at 892 Sheffield-Egremont Rd., \$105,000.
- 19 Roger E. Sr. & Sally K. Bailey to William F. Dowling, property at 704 South Main St., \$115,000.
- 30 Ben Hillman & Amy W. Rudnick to Troy Yulfo, property at 97 Berkshire School Rd., \$70,000.

SECOND ANNUAL KIWANIS HARVEST BRUNCH IS NOV. 6

The Sheffield Kiwanis will be hosting its second annual Harvest Brunch on Sun., Nov. 6 from 9:30AM to 12:30PM at the American Legion Hall on Route 7. This is a community fundraiser to support the Kiwanis "Warm the Children" program.

The brunch will feature quiche, scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, macaroni and cheese, scalloped potatoes, fruit salad and various tea breads. Juice, coffee and tea will also be served.

Tickets can be bought at Silk's Variety, Gulotta's Mobil and JTC & Son in Sheffield, at Sears, Smitty's or GoodWorks Insurance in Great Barrington or from any Kiwanis member. Tickets are \$10 per adult, \$5 for children 4-12. Children under the age of 4 are free. Every adult who buys a ticket ahead of time will receive a free 50/50 raffle ticket at the door and will also be eligible for a drawing to win a special gift.



The Kiwanis serving line at the 2010 brunch: Nat Padin, Dennis Hankey, Brian Palmer, Denise Rueger, and Debbie Wright.

In addition to the 50/50 raffle, a silent auction will take place, featuring goods and services from the local community, as well as a variety of holiday items and gift certificates from local businesses. This year, the silent auction will also be open on Saturday afternoon Nov. 5th, from 2 to 5pm.

Warm the Children provides new winter clothing to children from local families

who meet federal poverty guidelines. Each eligible child is entitled to purchase \$80 of winter clothing from Kmart in Great Barrington. Children are referred by schools and agencies in the Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire Regional School Districts. The program will pay for new jackets, hats, gloves, sweaters and other items of basic winter clothing.

Since the Kiwanis started supporting this program in 2008, it has been able to serve 100 or so children per year. Funds are raised through a partnership with the Kiwanis, The Berkshire Record and the local community.

The need this year will be greater than ever. Kiwanis is looking for your support. Bring your family and friends to the Harvest Brunch. You'll have a great meal, be able to visit with your neighbors and help children of our community.

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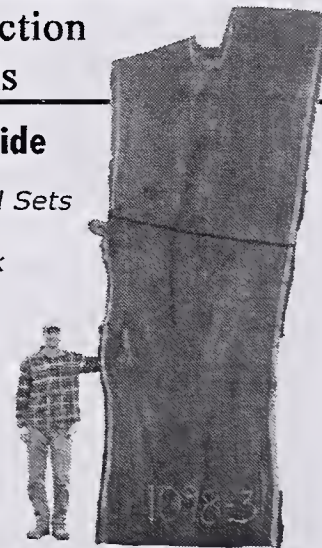
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KIWANIS NEWS AND EVENTS

Awards. The Kiwanis Club's Annual Installation/Awards banquet on Oct. 8 at The Bridge Restaurant featured three major honors. David Johnson, who heads our "Warm the Children" program, received the "Kiwanian of the Year" plaque from Joe Todd, last year's winner.

Robert Rueger was honored posthumously with the "Lifetime Achievement" award. Priscilla Rueger, his widow, and Kevin Rueger, his son, accepted.

Wes Petersen was named "Citizen of the Year" and received a plaque, a citation from State Senator Ben Downing and a proclamation from State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli. One of the Kiwanis scholarships next June will be named in Wes' honor.

Winter clothing. Members of our Kiwanis "Warm the Children" project met with Mack Stewart on Oct. 5. Mack and his wife founded the program in Torrington, CT, in 1997. This annual drive allows needy young people to buy up to \$80 in new winter clothing.

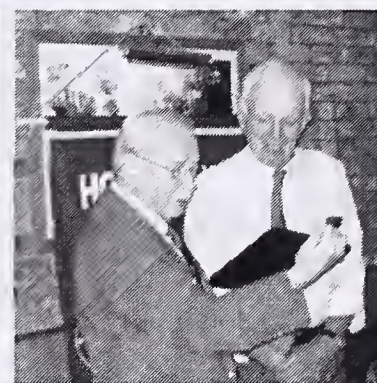
The project is currently going on in South Berkshire County. The Berkshire Record runs articles and lists donors and offers a form for those who wish to contribute. Kiwanis "shoppers" meet with the selected families at Kmart so the families can make their choices.

Last year we were able to outfit more than 100 children. The need is even greater in 2011. There's still time to donate. Send checks to Sheffield Kiwanis, P.O. Box 683, Sheffield.

Harvest brunch. The first major event of November is the 2nd Annual Harvest Brunch on Sunday, Nov. 6, at the American Legion Hall. For details, see the article opposite. Last year over \$5,000 was raised to buy furniture for the new Senior Center. This year the proceeds will go to the "Warm the Children" fund.

Gas-card raffle. Kiwanis is offering another gas-card raffle. Chances sell for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The big winner will receive a \$500 gas card; second prize is a \$100 card; and third place gets a \$50 card. The cards are good at all Exxon-Mobil stations. The drawing happens on Tues., Dec. 6, at a regular Kiwanis Club meeting.

Nuts. The much-anticipated Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts are now on sale. You can get them at the Harvest Brunch or at the usual stores in Sheffield and Great Barrington who regularly carry our "wares." The price remains \$20 per can. They make great house gifts around the



Priscilla and Kevin Rueger receive Bob Rueger's Lifetime Achievement Award from David Johnson, left. Dick Goodwin presents Wes Peterson with his "Citizen of the Year" plaque, right.

holidays—unless they get devoured in your own domicile.

Holiday fare. On both Thanksgiving and Christmas, Kiwanis provides turkeys (or turkey breasts) and veggies to all the food pantries in our area. David Smith, Sr., is our purchasing agent and, with aides, makes the deliveries. This time of year, club members are shopping for gifts for local children in the "Adopt a Child" program.

Kiwanis members also participate in the Good Samaritan "Shoebox" gift program now in progress. Each year Kiwanians have prepared from 60 to 90 of these parcels, which go to poor children somewhere in the world. Our offerings from the Northeast usually go to Ghana in Africa, where they light up the faces of youngsters who in most cases are receiving the first gift of their lifetime!

Fruits of the labor. The three defibrillators promised to the citizens of Sheffield are being purchased by the Sheffield Kiwanis Club with some of the proceeds from last summer's Cruise Raffle. The state-mandated items will be placed in the Town Hall, the Library and the Senior Center.

Kiwanis last served at the Breaking Bread soup kitchen on Oct. 6. The next scheduled service date is Dec. 15. David Smith, Sr., and Marge Kirchner head our crew for this project. The final Litter Patrol of the season cleaned our assigned Route 7 section on Oct. 20. The monthly roadside pickups will resume in April 2012. The Patrol leaders are Steve and JoAnn Shmulsky.

The 2012 truck raffle. The Annual Kiwanis Scholarship Truck Raffle tickets will be available in early December. This year's drive will memorialize a scholarship in the name of William Silk, who recently passed away. The chances sell for \$50 each, and the drawing is held in the lounge at The Bridge Restaurant on Valentine's Night, 2012. —Dick Goodwin

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS AND EVENTS

Leaves are falling, days are cooler and the occasional frost nips our lawns in the early morning. Time to start thinking about winter events and holiday cheer. Here at the Sheffield Historical Society we already have many seasonal events and happenings planned and ready to go.

Festival of Holidays. Get your gift lists ready and your taste buds in gear and join us for the Grand Opening of our annual Festival of Holidays at the Old Stone Store Friday night, Nov. 11 from 7 to 9pm. Come enjoy some refreshments, sample the homemade jams, jellies and preserves offered for sale and get a jump on your holiday shopping.

The Festival of Holidays will be open Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and Sundays from 11am to 4pm from Nov. 12 through Dec. 24, as well as the Friday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 25, from 10am to 4pm. It will feature holiday items made

by local artisans, gifts, crafts and seasonal items as well as those jams and preserves.

Our annual hand-painted ornament this year features Elizabeth Freeman, also known as Mum Bett. It's a limited edition item so shop early. There will also be two workshops offered during the Festival of Holidays: Creating Artificial Wreaths and Using Natural Materials. Mrs. Santa will hopefully pay a visit to read and offer children's books by local authors. Check our website at www.sheffieldhistory.org for more details.

Holiday party. Also coming up to add cheer to the holidays is our annual Holiday Party in the Dan Raymond House on Sun., Dec. 11 from 4 until 6pm. Enjoy the fire in the hearth, music, wine and the company of friends, all set in an 18th century kitchen.

What's It? Get ready for the ever popular and always fun "What's It? Night" at Dewey Hall on Fri., Jan. 13 at

7:30pm. Start looking in your attic and basement now for that odd or unusual item that will stump the crowd or that



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Spooks from the Spirit Walk

Every year members of the Historical Society gathers in one of Sheffield's cemeteries to hear from spirits of the past. On Oct. 9, Brian Levinsohn appeared as Dr. Horace Train (left, p. 24). John Wightman served as the ghostly Orville Dewey (above), and Susan Pitman represented the Sage family (right)



BARB'S BAKED GOODS

Barb's Baked Goods on Rt. 7 is taking orders for holiday pies and holiday baskets and platters at 229-8091. A holiday basket drawing will be held in November and December.

someone can identify for you, if you're the one who's stumped. Let our expert test you on your knowledge of items past and gently educate you with a wonderful collection of interesting old stuff. This event is a real crowd pleaser.

Most programs put on by the Sheffield Historical Society are free and open to the public. But without your support and membership, such programming and preserving of our past here in Sheffield would not be possible. Join today!

And at this time of year, when we are all remembering to say a big thank you to the family and friends and those who have gone out of their way to lend a helping hand or provide a kind word, I'd like to give a hearty note of appreciation to each and every one of the wonderful volunteers and supporters of the Society. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you! —Barbara Dowling

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SHEFFIELD WATER CO. WORK COMMENCES

The Sheffield Water Company has started work on its long-planned water storage tank and water distribution system improvements. There were significant delays due to an abutter's protests to the water tank and difficulty securing financing from the state.

"With the help of William "Smitty" Pignatelli and the Sheffield Board of Selectmen, we were able to secure the

2 percent loan for which we had been approved. We are fortunate to have these dedicated people working for all of us," said Beth Bartholomew, president of the company. "The state Water Pollution Abatement Trust was hesitant to award money to a private water company because it had recently experienced a loss with a developer. It needed to see that Sheffield is not a development—it

is homes, a regional school, a plastics company, farms and restaurants relying on an old water system in need of upgrades." She praised Pignatelli's involvement: "Smitty acquainted himself with the project, no small task, which included two years of hearings in Sheffield and in Boston. He brought

all parties together though conference calls and meeting with State Treasurer Steve Grossman."

Eventually, she said, the Trust decided to send a representative to Sheffield to view the project and agreed that the upgrades were all needed. As a result, the Trust issued new policies regarding loaning money to private water companies. "The next week money was awarded to the Sheffield Water Company to fund all its projects," she said.

New lines are being installed on Hewins St., Frederick Lane, Cook Rd., and North Main St., work that will be completed by Thanksgiving, maybe sooner. To settle the lawsuit with the abutter of the water tank, the company was required to move the tank back 125 feet from the original site, which necessitated a new design. "That's delayed the project." "We are very disappointed that the storage tank will not be completed this fall," said Bartholomew. "We will do the foundation and lines, but the tank will be installed in spring of 2012."

TOASTMASTERS TESTIMONIAL

Sheffield resident Laura Grunfeld says Toastmasters has helped improve her ability to give presentations. Laura works with festival producers to make their events more accessible to people with disabilities and often uses what she's learned during the training sessions she provides to festival staff.

The Southern Berkshire Toastmasters Club meets at Berkshire Community College in Great Barrington. For more information, email Laura at Laura@EveryonesInvited.com or call her at 413-717-0183.



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Calendar Page

November

- 5 Local Authors' Day (p. 12)
- 5 Dewey Hall Folk Music (p. 3)
- 6 Kiwanis Harvest Brunch (p. 22)
- 6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
- 11 Velmans book talk (p. 12)
- 11 VETERANS DAY
- 11 Shakespeare in the school (p. 2; also Nov. 12 and 17)
- 12 Walk at Lime Kiln Farm Sanctuary (p. 2)
- 15 Friends of Senior Center annual meeting (p. 17)
- 16 Accessory apartment information session (p. 18)
- 24 THANKSGIVING
- 26 Ashley Falls tree lighting (p. 1)
- 27 Woods Tea Company concert (p. 11)
- 28 Shotgun season begins (p. 20)

December

- 3 Dewey Hall Folk Music (p. 3)
- 4 Sheffield tree lighting (p. 1)
- 11 Historical Society holiday part (p. 24)
- 15 **Deadline for the JAN./FEB. Sheffield Times**
- 21 HANUKKAH BEGINS
- 25 CHRISTMAS

See also the listings for Library (p. 12), Senior Center (p. 17),
Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 21), Kiwanis (p. 23) and
Historical Society (p. 24)

Buy local, read local!
Please contribute!

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur less than weekly are noted with a week number – i.e. "1st, 3rd" indicates meetings are on the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.

Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays

Mondays:

- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am-1pm*
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd*
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th (2nd only for winter)*
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd*
- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am*
- * Foot care clinic, Senior Center, 1st*

Tuesdays:

- Building Inspector, 7am-1pm*
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd*
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last*
- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am*
- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am*
- Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am*
- Kiwanis Club, The Bridge Restaurant, 6:30pm*

Wednesdays:

- Senior Center Knitting Group, 3pm, 1st*
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th (4th only for summer)*

Thursdays:

- Building Inspector, Thurs. 11am-6 pm*
- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am*
- Third Thursday Luncheon, Senior Center, noon*
- * Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd*
- Breaking Bread Kitchen, American Legion Hall, 5pm*

Fridays

- Building Inspector, 11am-4pm*
- Council on Aging, 9:30am, as needed*
- Commission on Disabilities, Library, 3:30pm 3rd*

Saturdays:

- Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, 8pm, 1st*
- Senior Center Knitting Group, 11am, 3rd*

Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd*

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